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THE DAILY BULLETIN Weekly Summary

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EDITORIAL ARTICLES.

THE LABORERS' BILL.

A special committee has introduced to the Legislature a bill "relating to the licensing of laborers." It is a masterly attempt at oppressive legislation. The statutes of no free country can show a parallel. The author of any similar measure in the United States of America, Great Britain, or any British Constitutional Colony would be so effectively buried by public contempt and contumely, that, (to use the expression of the successful candidate at the Convention), the sound of Gabriel's horn would never reach him.

This bill aims to compel every man in the kingdom, except those serving under contract made through the Board of Immigration, who earns his bread by the sweat of his brow as a common laborer, to procure from an appointed official of the Government a licence to labor, for which he must pay the sum of 25 cents. The person applying for a licence must at the same time produce a photograph of himself, at his own cost, of course. The bill makes it unlawful for any person to hire anyone to perform common labor by the day or otherwise for remuneration or wages who has no licence. Each electoral district of the kingdom is to be a licensing district, with one or more licensing officials, and the licence granted in one district will be useless in any other, so that the laborer will have to take out a new licence and provide a fresh photograph whenever he removes from one district to another. A man who wants a licence to labor in a district, and is prepared to comply with the required conditions, may be refused; because by the request of three-fourths of the legal voters of any district, the number of licences for that district may be limited. Any laborer able to work found without a licence, no matter whether he has the means to procure such a document or not, may be punished for vagrancy.

The foregoing are the main features of the bill, which we trust are here presented with more clearness than in the document itself; otherwise we have labored in vain, and our readers' intellects will be taxed to the utmost to understand what we have written.

It comes to this: A man cannot work at ordinary labor for pay without a licence; a man cannot employ another to work at ordinary labor for pay unless the workman has a licence; a man cannot get a licence to work if two-thirds of the voters of his district object; every laborer must contribute to the support of photographers; any laborer may be sent to jail for being so unfortunate as to be destitute of the means to procure a picture of himself and a licence. A magnificent sample of tinpot law, constructed by a set of tinkers.

This proposed labor licence law is not, after all, an unmixed evil. It makes an opening for the gentle unemployed. Every electoral district must have "one or more" officials for granting licences, and these officials receive 25 cents for each licence, which amount they retain as their fee. It may seem a rather small sum for the recipient, but a single plantation with 1,000 laborers contributes \$250 at the start, for a couple or three days' work. Here

is employment for those who have so often complained of having performed the laborious task of "carrying a rifle" without compensation. The bill is also a genuine streak of gold for the photographer. He is more benefited than the official, because he is not going to do his part of the work for 25 cents per head, nor for ten times that amount. But perhaps the Government will undertake this job, and do it wholesale. That would be in keeping with its poi and light policy.

But the laborer must suffer. The bill is especially constructed for his oppression. What matter? In olden times he was considered "worthy of his hire;" but not now and in the Hawaiian Islands. Here a special committee of the Legislature of the kingdom would compel the poor fellow to buy a licence and a picture before he is allowed to work for hire. Whether Hawaiian, Asiatic, Portuguese, European, or American, if he is a laborer, this is the indignity to which the special committee wishes to subject him.

A poor fellow turns up in Honolulu "stumped," without a cent in his pocket, and scarcely a rag to his back. Work may be abundant, and the man may be both able and willing to do it. But he has neither photograph nor licence, and is destitute of the means to procure either. Therefore no one can employ him, and he must go to jail as a vagrant, because he is denied the right to work.

We are not informed who are the gentlemen comprising the special committee which brought in this bill. We simply see at the top of the first page that it is "by special committee." Perhaps they are very nice men, and no doubt they are, in their proper sphere. But legislation for a mixed population in a free country is evidently not their forte. One such example as the bill "relating to the licensing of laborers" is enough for a lifetime. We will not insult the Legislature as a whole by supposing that it will otherwise than "indefinitely postpone" this ridiculous measure; but feel impelled to advise the gentlemen of the special committee never again to attempt law-making. If you must remain in the House, look as wise as you know how while there, but keep perfectly still the balance of the session. You have made one dreadfully bad break. Be careful not to make another. You don't know how contemptible you appear in the eyes of sensible men. You may possibly redeem yourselves in the end by long silence, severe penance, and deep and protracted meditation. Heaven help you, gentlemen!

ABOUT MISSIONARIES.

On several occasions and at sundry times the BULLETIN has essayed to instruct the general public of this city and country touching the subject of Missionaries. But judging from what we have recently seen and heard, our labor has been in vain, we have spent our strength for naught, and the people are yet in darkness. The public are a "stiff-necked generation," and it is mighty hard to hammer sense and reason into their extremely stubborn and wooden heads, being in this respect like unto Ministers and Legislators. Nevertheless, once more we return to the subject, and attempt again to place before their eyes the words of truth and soberness, whether they will see or decline to see.

A Missionary is "one sent to propagate religion." Among Christian people the term Missionary is applied to one who preaches and teaches the Christian religion to the heathen.

Some sixty years ago, more or less—we are not posted as to the exact length of time—the first Missionaries came to these islands, sent by a board of Missions in the United States. Others came at later dates. The Hawaiians were then idolaters. The Missionaries set to work to learn the native language, and through its medium to instruct the people in the Christian religion. It is idle talk to say at this late date

that they should have done something else, and that they made a great mistake in doing what they did. They were sent expressly and exclusively to teach religion, and they did it. Among them were a few lay brethren, who were engaged in various capacities in connection with the mission.

In the course of time the Missionaries trained natives to become teachers and preachers, and these gradually took the places of their instructors, until, as at the present time, nearly all the native churches had native pastors. The supply of Missionaries ceased, and the old stock grew gradually less, through removal by death, superannuation, and retirement from other causes, until nothing but a mere remnant now remains, the numbers of which can be counted on one's fingers.

After the American Missionaries, a good many years, came the Roman Catholic Missionaries and Missionaries of the English Church. The latter, though, have never attempted much real missionary work. The Roman Catholics, however, have been Missionaries from the beginning, and continue to confine themselves almost exclusively to purely missionary work. In fact, they are the only missionary body on the islands at the present time.

Although but few of the American Missionaries now remain, and some of them are no longer Missionaries, there is quite a sprinkling of their descendants throughout the islands, including in their ranks some of our best families, in every sense of the term. But they are not Missionaries, any more than the children of the Chief Justice are judges because their father is a judge.

Going back again to the early Missionaries, we find that they became advisers of the kings, and in this way became identified with the Government, and ultimately controlled it; so that for a period, quite a long period, the Government of the Kingdom was a truly Missionary Government. But as the Missionaries diminished and the number of other foreigners increased, the Government gradually passed out of the control of the former, so that for many years, twenty at least, there has been a very little missionary voice or influence in Hawaiian State affairs.

The foregoing facts show how ridiculous and misleading is an outcry at this late date about the Missionaries running the Government and having things all their own way. When a term is employed to designate any faction, or clique, or class, is it not well and wise to select an appellation which conveys some kind of a correct idea of the character of the particular association intended, and not one that is inappropriate and misleading? Why call that missionary which is not missionary? Employ some other term to designate that section of the community which is intended by the word missionary, some term more truthful; and do not disturb in their lonely graves the dry bones of the departed fathers, nor ruffle the closing earthly scene of the few who remain, by a savage posthumous howl against the Missionaries.

A QUERY ANSWERED.

A correspondent sends us the following query: "As a member of Ward 2, I would respectfully ask your opinion whether a member is bound by the action of the delegates, when at the Convention held Saturday night, two of the delegates went back on their instructions?"

We take it, that a delegate is simply a representative, and a representative is expected to carry out the wishes of the person or persons represented, so far as those wishes are known, and so far as circumstances will admit of his complying therewith. When a delegate is definitely instructed, we think he should obey those instructions, or if for any reason he is disinclined to do so, he should resign. When a delegate deliberately ignores his instructions, we should not consider

his constituents bound by his acts.

With regard to Saturday night's Convention, we hold that every delegate is in honor bound to abide by the decision of the majority. The two gentlemen whose names were before the Convention as candidates for the House of Nobles, very properly made their candidacy dependent upon the choice of the delegates. The defeated nominee had nothing to do but to gracefully retire, which he did. It now remains for those delegates who were in a minority, to give their support to the successful nominee, Mr. W. C. Wilder. This is the only honorable course. Being a part of the Convention, they should abide by the choice of a majority of its members.

FAILURE AND DISAPPOINTMENT.

This morning's "Advertiser" is somewhat racy. It is rather to our taste. If it keeps on in the same course it will create a suspicion that it is not "in accord." The Legislature is handled with an unusual degree of irreverence, and chided for wasting its precious time on trifles, to the neglect of important and imperative measures which the public good demands. We would not mollify the effect of the castigation one bit, but prefer rather to heap on the coals and keep the pot boiling. They deserve it all.

Great expectations centred in this Reform Legislature. The elections were a perfect triumph. Reformers were chosen all over the country, and the very ones put forward by organized bodies of reformers. When the returns came in from all the islands a shout of glory went up from the capital city. What a body of men had been selected to straighten out the crooked affairs of the nation, and to enact legislation that would make the people contented and happy! Their honesty and ability were both unquestionable. One elderly gentleman born here informed us that he had never seen such an able Legislature in the kingdom. All eyes were turned to this remarkable collection of law-makers. They met in extra session, and covered themselves with glory by ostentatiously butting their wooden heads against the Reform Constitution. They have now been between two and three months in the regular session, and what have they done?

We do not deny the fact that a majority of the members have worked hard and vigorously throughout the session, on committees and otherwise. The number and volubility of reports, and the variety and massiveness of bills are appalling. The amount of matter made for the printer is really astounding. Talk about Gibson's time! The present totally eclipses every period of the past. But after all, what has been accomplished? In the line of useful legislation for the public good, a very little indeed. Like a horse in a pudding machine, there has been a plenty of motion without progression. Time has been frittered away in the House over a lot of little tidbitting matters, while the weightier ones have been neglected, with "all the carelessness and imprudence of children," as the "Advertiser" says. In short, the session has been a failure and a disappointment, and the personnel of the House very nearly amounts to the same thing. A few capable men are burdened with a number of ninnies, who, as one honorable gentleman said, are fit for nothing but to move the previous question. It is now in order for the electors to hang their harps upon the nearest trees they can find, and sit by the rivulets that run from the mountains to the sea, and weep their very eyes away, on account of the neglect of their interests by their chosen representatives.

IN THE LINE OF PROGRESS.

The Minister of Interior advertises for tenders for filling and grading Halekauila and Alakea streets. This is a new departure. Not the idea of calling for tenders, but the inviting of tenders for work of this particular nature. Hitherto road-making in this country has gener-

ally been done directly by the Government, by men in its employ. But now the Minister appears to have conceived the idea of getting that class of work done by contract. The idea is good, and the new departure in the line of enlightened progress. It is an undeniable fact that our roads cost the public treasury a very large amount of money, an amount considered by those who claim to know disproportionate to the results. The contract system will undoubtedly lessen the cost, without deteriorating the quality of the work. Probably at the start, men competent and willing to undertake such work may be scarce; but if the Government establishes the principle involved in the advertisement above referred to, contractors will soon be created, and responsible parties equal to the task will be forthcoming. Some countries, noted for good roads, do their entire road-building on the contract system. It may be here remarked, that a civil engineer, specially trained and experienced in road-grading and road-building, is an officer which might be added to the Interior staff to the saving of public funds and for the advancement of the public convenience.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOL.

EDITOR BULLETIN:—Relative to the statement in your local columns of yesterday's issue, that the full number of applications for the Kamehameha School had been received, I wish to state, that further applications will be received, preference being given to those who apply first should vacancies occur. Should the number of applications warrant it, a new dormitory will be constructed and put in readiness to receive forty-five more boys at the beginning of the next term in February.

WM. B. OLESON, Principal.

A USE FOR THEM.

EDITOR BULLETIN:—Allow me to express my unqualified approval of your strictures on the "special committee" referred to in your editorial of last evening. The perceptive mind has long since recognized the fact that animals of that breed are as incongruously placed in the human family, as a brace of squawking capons in a colony of owls. Let them therefore be withdrawn from circulation. Let the places that have declined to know them be bothered no more. Let gimlet holes be bored about their ears, whence the aqueous limpidity of their thinking machines may trickle forth to be bottled up for chemical destruction and let the spaces be refilled with bran. In this event they might become practically valuable as hitching posts—an achievement of usefulness which their present cranial condition denies them the remotest possibility of attaining. XXX.

LIBERAL REFORM PARTY.

EDITOR BULLETIN:—The "Advertiser" calls the last Convention a Liberal Convention and refers to the party in power as the Liberal Reform Party. It seems very strange that the organ of the Reform Party should substitute a new name for its party, and especially a name which has no identity with that portion of the party which controls the Government.

The term Liberal Reform party was first used by the men opposed to the old Reform Party. How the "Advertiser" has the presumption to steal the name after the Convention certainly seems very queer.

The Reform Party, or rather that division of it in power, is not liberal. In fact, it is just the opposite, and might be truly styled the Conservative, the Prohibition, or the Illiberal Party.

The intense feeling of the liberal element in the Convention and among the crowd of spectators, showed the strong aversion to that governing and law-making faction which exists. Attempts are being made to pass laws detrimental to the interests and enjoyments of the poorer classes of the community. This is not liberal, and Saturday night's demonstration indicated that it is not popular.

The paying of policemen only \$30 a month, for 12 hours work per day, may be reform, but it does not make an efficient police force, nor is it liberal.

The saving of a few dollars in building a wharf or a bridge, may show economy and great honesty, but it does not make a popular Government nor a substantial job. Anyhow, it has no element of liberality about it.

Framing laws which are a benefit only to planters, rich merchants, and lawyers will not advance nor develop a country. It may make a few rich, like the Southern planters in the United States were before the war, and like some other Southern slave States are; but it cannot elevate the industrial and laboring classes. It is also distinctly opposed to the spirit of truly liberal Government. This gives the first consideration to the toilers and sweaters.

Meddling with the liquor question in a way not calculated to advance the cause of morals or the public good, is making many enemies in the Reform Party; especially as it was plainly understood during the general election campaign and at the great Nominating Convention that that problem should be let alone. This meddling smacks of narrowness. There is not one spark of liberal sentiment in it.